

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 – 13 (Cancelled)

14. (New) A device for slicing food products in block form with a blade, comprising:

a rocking loading arm;

wherein the rocking loading arm is configured such that a food product block may be reversibly raised with the rocking loading arm from a first position to a second position;

wherein the rocking loading arm is curved at least when in a slicing position; and

wherein the rocking loading arm is oriented substantially horizontally when in a loading position.

15. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the first position is the loading position and the second position is the slicing position.

16. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the rocking loading arm is inclined substantially relative to horizontal in the slicing position.

17. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the rocking loading arm comprises at least one joint.

18. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the rocking loading arm comprises at least one guide roll.

19. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the rocking loading arm comprises at least one flexible conveyor belt.

20. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the rocking loading arm comprises a limit stop at one end for the food product block.

21. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the rocking loading arm is configured such that a plurality of food blocks may be sliced in parallel.
22. (New) The device of claim 21, further comprising a plurality of product tracks arranged in parallel, wherein each of the plurality of product tracks is configured to guide one of the plurality of food blocks.
23. (New) The device of claim 22, further comprising lateral guide elements arranged between the product tracks.
24. (New) A method of slicing at least one food product block, comprising:
 - transferring a food product block from a loading position to a slicing position prior to slicing using a rocking loading arm;
 - wherein the shape of the rocking loading arm is modified on transfer from the loading position to the slicing position; and
 - wherein the food product block is bent on transfer of the rocking loading arm.
25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the rocking arm is curved perpendicularly to a conveying direction of the food product block.